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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 29 2004

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In re Application of Petkovich *et al.*
 Serial No.: 09/668,482
 Filing Date: September 25, 2000
 Title: Retinoid Metabolizing Protein
 Art Unit: 1652
 Examiner: Elizabeth Slobodyansky, Ph.D.
 Atty's Docket No.: 32391-2005

Fax No:
703-872-9306

BOX AF

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

*AF
Do NOT
cancel
Slobodyansky
3/25/04*

This is a response to the final office action of December 29, 2003. A petition for an extension of time of one month for filing this response accompanies this paper.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** containing a paper copy of a Sequence Listing (28 pages) is attached following page 16 of this paper.